Web Authoring

Chris J. Lindberg, CIC-1
Lisa Gardner, CIC-6

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What is an Editor?

- ◆ Text Editor
  - ■ Standard tools that come with system
    - ❖ SimpleText, WordPad, vi
    - ❖ BBEdit (HTML tool pallette included)

- ◆ WYSIWYG Editor (**W**hat-**Y**ou-**S**ee-**I**s-**W**hat-**Y**ou-**G**et)
  - ■ Graphical interface allowing user ease
    - ❖ FrontPage, Dreamweaver, HomeSite, GoLive CyberStudio

Advantages of HTML Editors

- Completes HTML for you

- Checks and verifies syntax in your HTML and typos in your text

- Adds attributes easily to add (click a button)

- Offers varying degrees of WYSIWYG display in your Web page

- Corrects mistakes in existing HTML pages

- Offers easy to use special characters

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Disadvantages of HTML Editors

- Some don't support all forms, frames, and tables

- More difficult to learn and less intuitive than promised

- Cost money

- Take up more disk space and more memory

- Some add proprietary information

- Some reformat code

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IA-8602: Laboratory Standard

◆ **Windows 95/NT**

- Basic: Microsoft FrontPage 98
- Advanced: Macromedia Dreamweaver

◆ **Macintosh**

- Basic: No standard
- Advanced: Macromedia Dreamweaver with BBEdit 4.5

◆ **UNIX**

- No standard

Editors Reviewed

The following products were reviewed by experienced LANL users and from published documentation

◆ Microsoft FrontPage 98

◆ Macromedia Dreamweaver

◆ HotDog Pro 5.0

◆ HomeSite

◆ BBEdit

Microsoft FrontPage 98

Advantages:

- Excellent tool for the beginner or occasional user (Contains familiar tool bars)

- Excellent for importing Word, Excel, and PowerPoint files

- Comes with templates, themes, and wizards to help build site

- Internal JavaScripts ("Components") for animation, actions, and interactivity

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Microsoft FrontPage 98

Disadvantages:

- Rewrites HTML
- Templates & themes can create a "canned, unoriginal" look
- JavaScript not easily editable
- Must publish to FrontPage Server for best results (Does not work on Unix servers)
- Site management tool not intuitive

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Microsoft FrontPage 98

◆ **Security Concerns**

  http://www.insecure.org/sploits/Microsoft.frontpage.insecurities.html

◆ **Patches**

  The following Microsoft site has some "fixes" for the vulnabilities with the FrontPage server

  http://officeupdate.microsoft.com/downloadCatalog/dldFrontPage.htm

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Macromedia Dreamweaver 2.0

Advantages:

- Creates clean, well-formatted HTML code

- Does not reformat your original code

- Full featured (Add JavaScript, DHTML, and other advanced features)

- Will create substitute pages for older browsers and redirect the user as needed

- Works cross-platform

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Macromedia Dreamweaver 2.0

Disadvantages:

- Confusing multi-window application

- Relatively young software - buggy

- Site management tool not intuitive (Possible to save files incorrectly)

- Site information lost if computer crashes before application is quit

- Some JavaScript seems over done

- Caching problem causes system crashing

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HomeSite 3.0

Advantages:

- Creates clean HTML code (does not change your code)

- Easy to use - has shortcut buttons, wizards and scripts

- Can access the server directly and make changes

- Established software in the marketplace

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HomeSite 3.0

Disadvantages:

- Not a novice users tool
- HTML knowledge required

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GoLive (CyberStudio)

Advantages:

- Control tabs on main window may offer better interface than multi-windows

- Site management tool works well for pre-planned sites

- Cross-platform (Adobe V 4.0 release)

- Offers advanced Javascript actions, DHTML, Cascading Style Sheets

- Powerfull palettes and inspection windows

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GoLive (CyberStudio)

Disadvantages:

- Not an IA Standard

- Version tested* used degraded tags

- Table tool not intuitive

* Version tested was older GoLive-Personal

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Hot Dog 5.0

Advantages:

- HTML-Driven

- Internal viewer (Rover)

- Simple preferences

- Easy to insert images, plug-ins, JavaScript, DHTML

- User can define elements and extensions
  - Can make Netscape or IE-specific

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Hot Dog 5.0

Disadvantages:

- Interface not intuitive (MUST know HTML)

- Confusing multi-window interface

- Site management tool not intuitive

- Requires "high risk" permissions installing additional features

- Security issues may prevent use on some machines

- Full install interferes with other .DLL files on Windows machines

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BBEdit

Advantages:

- Powerful text editor

- Robust HTML tools and entity palettes

- Multi-file find and replace

- Better anchor tool than Dreamweaver

- Multiple browser support

- Built-in support for multiple programming languages and applications

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BBEdit

Disadvantages:

- No WYSIWYG view

- HTML knowledge required

- Mac only

- Built-in FTP tool does not work with passcodes

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Where to get more...

- ◆ FrontPage, Dreamweaver, and BBEdit
  - Available from esd.lanl.gov
  - Training available (*except BBEdit*) through CIC-6 Training

- ◆ Hot Dog 5.0
  - www.sausage.com
  - 30-day demo available

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Resources

- ◆ Mailing Lists
    - ■ HTML - html@lanl.gov
    - ■ FrontPage - frontpage@lanl.gov
    - ■ Dreamweaver - dreamweaver@lanl.gov

- ◆ Web User Group - http://www.lanl.gov/projects/wwwug/

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